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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

We, 227 participants from 73 countries representing all continents, composed of representatives of national and local governments, regional organizations, international, regional and local non-governmental organizations, academics, parliamentarians, the private sector and families, participating in the World Family Summit +9 and having accomplished the agenda with very participatory and fruitful discussions in all plenary sessions;

Taking into consideration that the deadline agreed in 2000 for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is approaching and acknowledging that efforts are still needed to accomplish them;

Recognizing that, in order to build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals, further steps have to be taken to advance after the deadline of 2015;

Taking note of the worldwide efforts to conduct consultations and discussions among Governments and civil society at large and at all levels on how to draw up a post-2015 development agenda capable of responding to the global challenges of the twenty-first century, with a view to building on the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing that the world's two biggest challenges are how to end poverty and how to promote sustainable development by putting in place a new agenda able to bring together all stakeholders determined to change the course of things, to reject business-as-usual, to confront challenges, to transform thinking, to find new ways of working and to bring about paradigm shifts;

Welcoming the positive results and outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015" and the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which brought about a vision and framework for the post-2015 development agenda all while emphasizing that the new agenda should reflect the concerns of the people;

Welcoming and supporting the vision of sustainable development elaborated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a holistic concept addressing the four dimensions of society — economic development, social and cultural inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance, including peace and security — and recognizing that a sustainable development path builds on a global framework for cooperation to address the above dimensions;

Considering the recommendations and declarations of the first World Family Summit held in Sanya, China, in 2004, the World Family Summit +1 in Aracaju, Brazil, in 2005, the World Family Summit +2 in Amman in 2006, the World Family Summit +3 in Warsaw in 2007, the World Family Summit +4 in Cairo in 2008, the World Family Summit +5 in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2009, the World Family Summit +6 in Paris in 2010, the World Family Summit +7 in Abu Dhabi in 2011 and the World Family Summit +8 in Iguazu Falls, Brazil, in 2012;

Noting the outcomes of the preparations and celebration of the International Year of the Family in 1994, the preparations and celebration of its tenth anniversary

in 2004 and the importance of preparations for the twentieth anniversary due to be celebrated in 2014;

Welcoming the results and recommendations of the five plenary sessions held at the World Family Summit +9 on the five transformative shifts for a forward-looking, compelling and integrated sustainable development agenda;

Have adopted the following declaration:

A new post-2015 era demands an innovative vision and a responsive framework, enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice, peace and environmental stewardship, that must become our global and local guiding principle and operational standard, bringing together the full range of human aspirations and needs.

The five transformative actions of the post-2015 development agenda should be supported by multi-stakeholder partnerships of Governments, international and regional organizations, local authorities, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, research institutes and academia, the private sector, volunteer groups and families, in order to channel commitment and actions from a wider set of actors, keeping in mind that the success of such partnerships depends on assigning roles, responsibilities and clear accountability.

If clear goals and targets are set for the new agenda, it could be a powerful force for change; the agenda should have a strong impact on sustainable development, a compelling and easy-to-understand message, measurable indicators, be widely applicable and be grounded in the voice of the people and the dignity of the person.

Ensuring that no family is left behind

The agenda also needs to tackle the causes of poverty, exclusion and inequity and address the concerns of the most vulnerable, with a view to ensuring that in the future income, gender, ethnicity, disability and geographical location no longer determine whether people will live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely or whether a child will have a fair chance in life.

In addition, the agenda must connect families in urban and rural areas to the modern economy through quality infrastructure such as roads, electricity, irrigation, telecommunications, business opportunities, quality health-care services and education for all.

It must end all forms of discrimination; promote equality between men and women, girls and boys; establish clear rules for equal rights to inherit and own property and businesses; ensure community control of environmental resources; assure people's personal safety; and provide collective access to basic social justice and peace.

In the light of the above, we recommend the following:

(a) Family poverty must be eliminated and families must benefit from appropriate social protection systems;

(b) Family issues should be integrated into the sustainable development goals and associated targets;

(c) All family members should receive quality education and have access to lifelong learning services and affordable, quality health care;

(d) Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls should be promoted, including in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence.

Putting sustainable development at the heart of the new development agenda

By promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and managing the natural resource base of economies, national and local governments, businesses and families can balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages among them to set out the core elements of sustainable lifestyles that can work for all.

The new agenda must ensure an enabling environment for good governance at national and local levels, taking into account the fact that respect for human rights, peace and security, transparency and accountability are important means for achieving all the dimensions of sustainable development. Since sustainable development is the sum of the actions of all families, it is important for all stakeholders to be able to participate in decision-making at all levels.

We therefore make the following recommendations, in addition to those listed above:

(a) Ensure universal access to energy for all families;

(b) Increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix;

(c) Improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion and combat desertification;

(d) Ensure water and food security for all families.

Transforming economies for jobs and inclusive growth

The new agenda must foster profound economic transformation in order to end poverty and improve the livelihoods of all families. There must be rapid, equitable, long-term and inclusive growth to overcome the challenges of unemployment, especially for women and young people.

The first priority must be to create opportunities for good and decent jobs and to secure livelihoods so as to make growth inclusive and ensure that it reduces poverty and inequality. However, that is not enough. People need to be educated, trained and equipped with the skills they need to be successful in the job market and respond to the demands of businesses for more skilled workers.

Supportive policies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises will develop their capacity to create added value, by innovating and absorbing new technologies and producing higher quality and a greater range of products. Governments must put in place a stable environment that enables businesses to flourish, in addition to simple and smart regulatory frameworks for starting, operating and closing down e a business.

In the light of the above, we make the following recommendations:

(a) Promote full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection;

(b) Increase the number of good and decent jobs and secure livelihoods;

(c) Decrease the number of young people not in education, employment or training;

(d) Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure;

(e) Promote an enabling business environment and boost entrepreneurship, including young people's and women's self-employment;

(f) Strengthen flexible working arrangements to reconcile the balance between work and family life;

(g) Recognize and compensate unpaid work within the family.

Building peace and ensuring open and accountable public institutions

The most essential human requirement for building peaceful and prosperous societies is freedom from conflict and violence. Capable and responsive States and family-friendly societies can build transparent and accountable Governments and public institutions that are responsive to families' needs. A fundamental shift to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of families' well-being must take place.

Societies should organize their dialogue through institutions, with national and local authorities and families working together to bring about a swift reduction in corruption, money laundering, tax evasion, hidden ownership of assets and illicit trade of arms and drugs.

In the light of the above, we make the following recommendations:

(a) It should be recognized that respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large;

(b) Bribery and corruption should be reduced and officials should be held accountable;

(c) The transparency of financial flows should be ensured and public participation and civic engagement in decision-making at all levels should be increased.

Forging a new global partnership

Recommendations:

(a) The new global partnership should be based on genuine cooperation to strengthen equity, solidarity, human rights, development and prosperity for all families of the world;

(b) The partnership should merge the environmental and development agendas and tackle the causes and symptoms of poverty in an integrated and universal way.